

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) An apparatus for press-contacting an electric wire, comprising:

a case holding part for holding a case in which a press-contacting terminal is stored;

a positioning part for positioning the electric wire in the vicinity of the case holding part to be opposed to the press-contacting terminal;

an electric wire holding part for holding the electric wire positioned by the positioning part;

a press-contacting driving mechanism for driving the electric wire held by the electric wire holding part so that the electric wire is pushed into a slot part of the press-contacting terminal to provide pressure contact therebetween;

a tension driving mechanism for driving the electric wire holding part in a direction along which the electric wire held by the electric wire holding part is tensioned;

a cover holding part for holding a cover member that is fitted for covering a position at which the electric wire is held in the case;

a fitting driving mechanism for driving the cover member held by the cover holding part so that the cover member is fitted into the case; and

a loosening driving mechanism for driving, in response to the operation for fitting the cover member, the electric wire holding part in a direction along which the electric wire is loosened.

10. (New) An apparatus for press-contacting an electric wire, comprising:

a case holding part for holding a case in which a press-contacting terminal is stored;

a positioning part for positioning the electric wire in the vicinity of the case holding part to be opposed to the press-contacting terminal;

an electric wire holding part for holding the electric wire positioned by the positioning part;

a press-contacting driving mechanism for driving the electric wire held by the electric wire holding part so that the electric wire is pushed into a slot part of the press-contacting terminal to provide pressure contact therebetween;

a tension driving mechanism for driving the electric wire holding part in a direction along which the electric wire held by the electric wire holding part is tensioned;

an electric wire cutting part for cutting the electric wire between the case holding part and the electric wire holding part in response to the press-contacting operation by the press-contacting driving mechanism;

a cover holding part for holding a cover member that is fitted for covering a position at which the electric wire is held in the case;

a fitting driving mechanism for driving the cover member held by the cover holding part so that the cover member is fitted into the case; and

a loosening driving mechanism for driving, in response to the operation for fitting the cover member, the electric wire holding part in a direction along which the electric wire is loosened.